



TranSystems

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August 19, 2009

Dr. James A. Glass
Indiana Department of Natural Resources,
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
402 W. Washington Street, Room W274
Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: Indiana Gateway Rail Congestion Mitigation

Dear Dr. Glass,

I respectfully submit this letter and attached information to your office on behalf of our client, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS). NS is in the process of applying for USDOT/Federal Rail Administration funding (HSIPR) to implement the proposed Indiana Gateway Congestion Mitigation project located in Lake and Porter Counties. As such, the project may become an undertaking subject to the National Historic Preservation Act, among other federal laws and regulations. As a pre-requisite to the award of funding, the project sponsor (Indiana Department of Transportation) must show the project complies with the National Environmental Policy Act. Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to request comment from the Indiana Division of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA), on the effects of the project to historic properties. This letter includes project descriptions, location maps, preliminary design plans and representative photographs from the field.

The project proposal consists of infrastructure improvements at seven locations on the NS Chicago Line, and one location on the Amtrak Michigan line at Porter, Indiana. The individual work locations are illustrated on Figure 1. The eight individual projects are designed to provide rail managers with improved operational flexibility, thus enabling intercity passenger and freight traffic to be routed in a more efficient and fluid manner than is currently possible on this highly congested line segment. Congestion related train delay would be reduced and the intercity passenger service 'On Time Performance' improved. It is important to note that no increase in the volume of train traffic is proposed as a result of the completion of these eight projects. The purpose of the projects is to improve rail operations and reduce congestion. Therefore, implementation of the projects will reduce the number of idling/stationary trains in the area. The improvement elements will have independent utility and can be constructed and placed into service on an individual basis, thus providing immediate incremental benefits as full implementation progresses.

Proposed project improvements include track relocation, reconfiguration, the addition of high-speed crossovers and related signal system improvements, and minor rail line additions at two locations (achieved by lengthening and rehabilitating existing sidings with the purpose of creating a new parallel passing siding). The individual projects are described in Table 1 along with location, reference to representative photographs of the project areas (Attachment A), preliminary engineering on aerial background(Attachment B), and milepost number.

All work, including the minor rail line additions (sidings and siding extensions), will take place within the existing railroad right-of-way. No new permanent or temporary right-of-way is needed and construction forces will access the track from existing access points and maintenance drives.

Because of the limited scope of the projects, the constrained project areas (within existing NS rights-of-way), and the fact that the projects will not increase the volume of trains but will reduce congestion, it is expected that no negative impacts to the natural and cultural landscape will result. The projects are consistent with FRA's definition of categorically excluded projects according to their Procedures for Considering Environmental Impact, 64 FR 28545. Therefore, a categorical exclusion document is being completed for each project. I respectfully request your office's



comment on what further steps, if any, are needed to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA. Should you require any additional information or have any questions concerning this request, please feel free to contact me at the number listed above or by email at amschneider@transystems.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Schneider".

Andrew M. Schneider, RPA, AICP
Transportation Planner

Enclosures

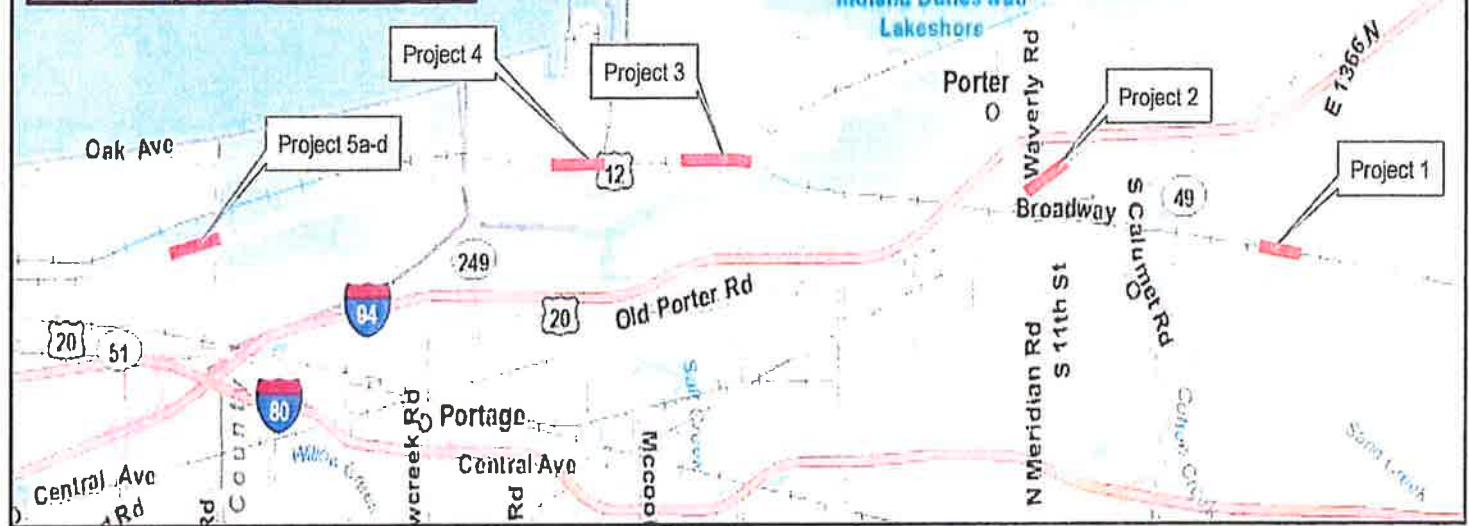
cc: **David Becker, Norfolk Southern Railway Company**
Keith Bucklew, Indiana Department of Transportation

Table 1: Indiana Gateway Congestion Mitigation Projects

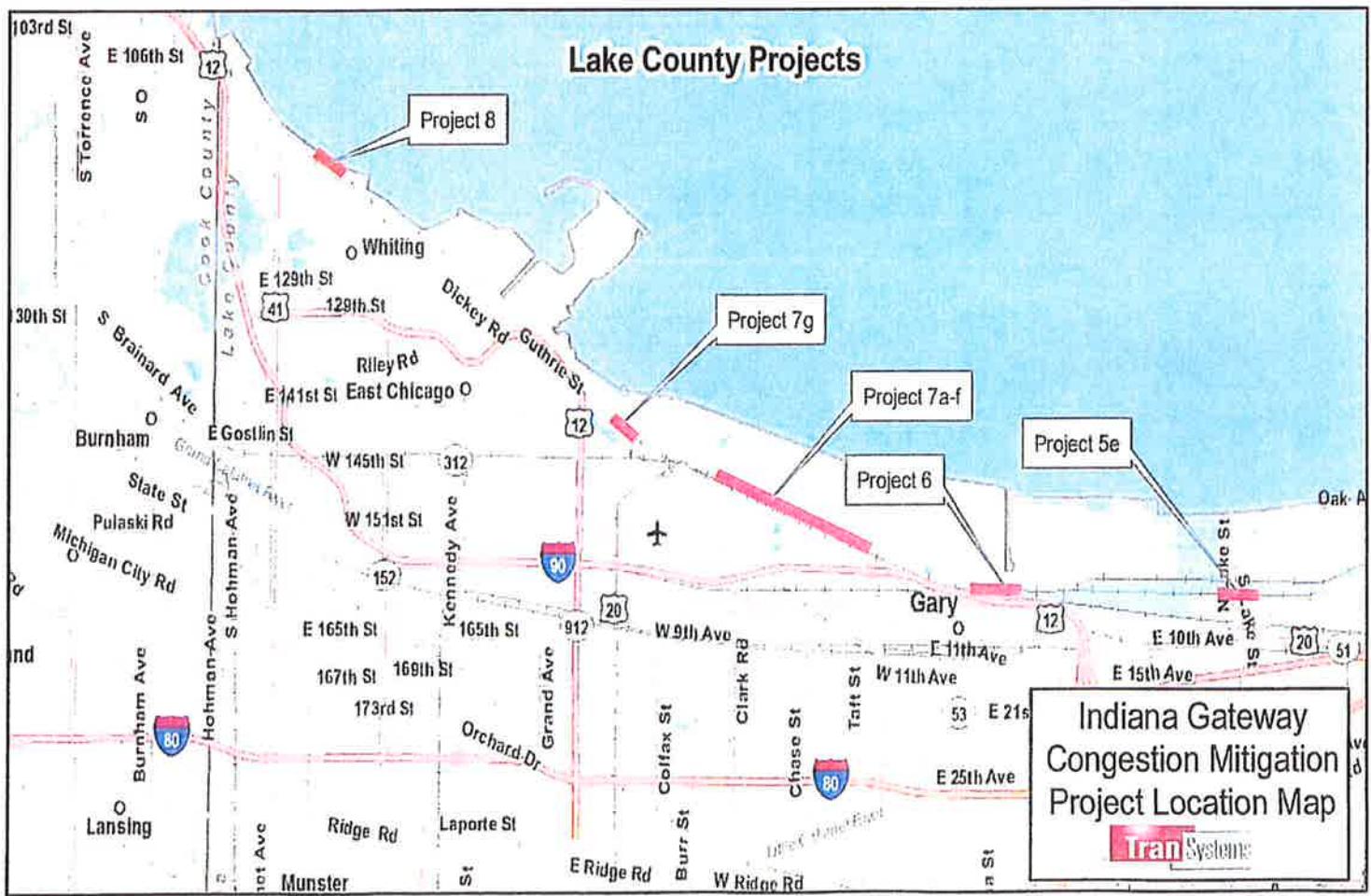
Location	Project Number	Photos	Plan Sheet Page	Milepost	Description
Burdick, IN	1	1	3	479.3	Construct Universal Crossover
Porter, IN area	2	2-3	4-7	482	Construct meet/pass siding near junction with Amtrak Line
Burns Harbor, IN	3	4	8	485	Construct new control point and high speed universal crossover
Burns Harbor, IN	4	5	9-10	487	Replace control point, build new high speed universal crossover, construct new crossover for access to South Bend RR
Millers, IN area	5 a-d	6	11-20	490.2-491	Construct new control point and new universal high speed crossover, construct siding extension and upgrade existing siding
Millers, IN area	5e	7	20	492.5	Construct new control point and high speed universal crossover
Gary, IN area	6	8	21-22	495	Construct new control point and high speed universal crossover with connection to Kirk Yard
Pine Yard, IN area	7a	9	23-40	497	Rebuild signals and install high speed turnout to Pine Yard siding extension
Pine Yard, IN area	7b	10	23-40	497-499	Extend passing siding
Pine Yard, IN area	7c	11	23-40	499	Add power turnout to access Pine Yard
Pine Yard, IN area	7d	12	23-40	500	Upgrade existing passing siding
Pine Yard, IN area	7e-f	13	23-40	499-501.2	Add power turnouts and construct passing siding extension
Pine Yard, IN area	7g	14	23-40	501	Modify/expand control point and install high speed turnout to siding extension
Hammond, IN area	8 a-c	15-18	41-44	505.9-506	Construct new control point and rebuild and expand existing control point and add new high speed universal crossover. Construct new track to improve connectivity with existing running track



Porter County Projects

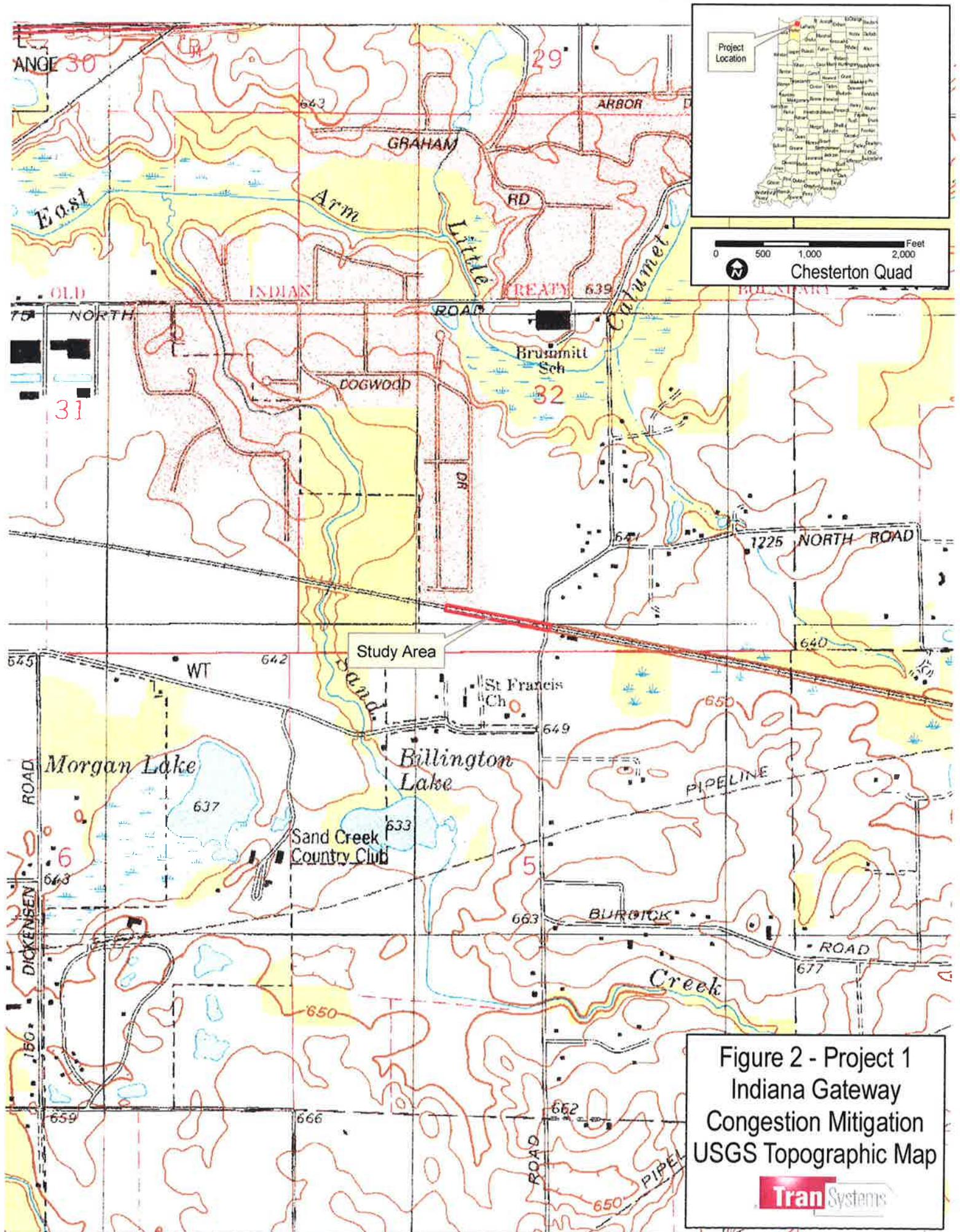


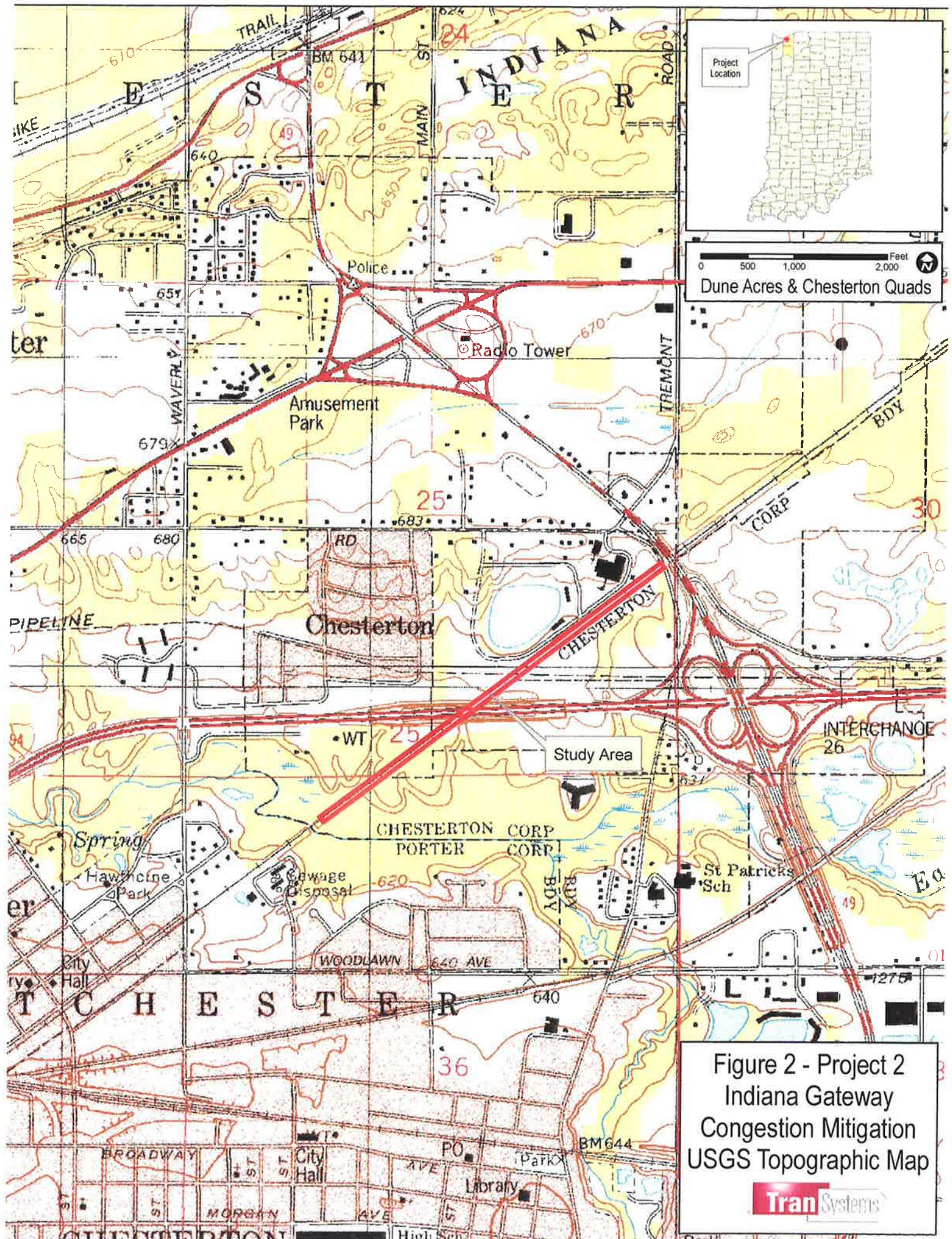
Lake County Projects

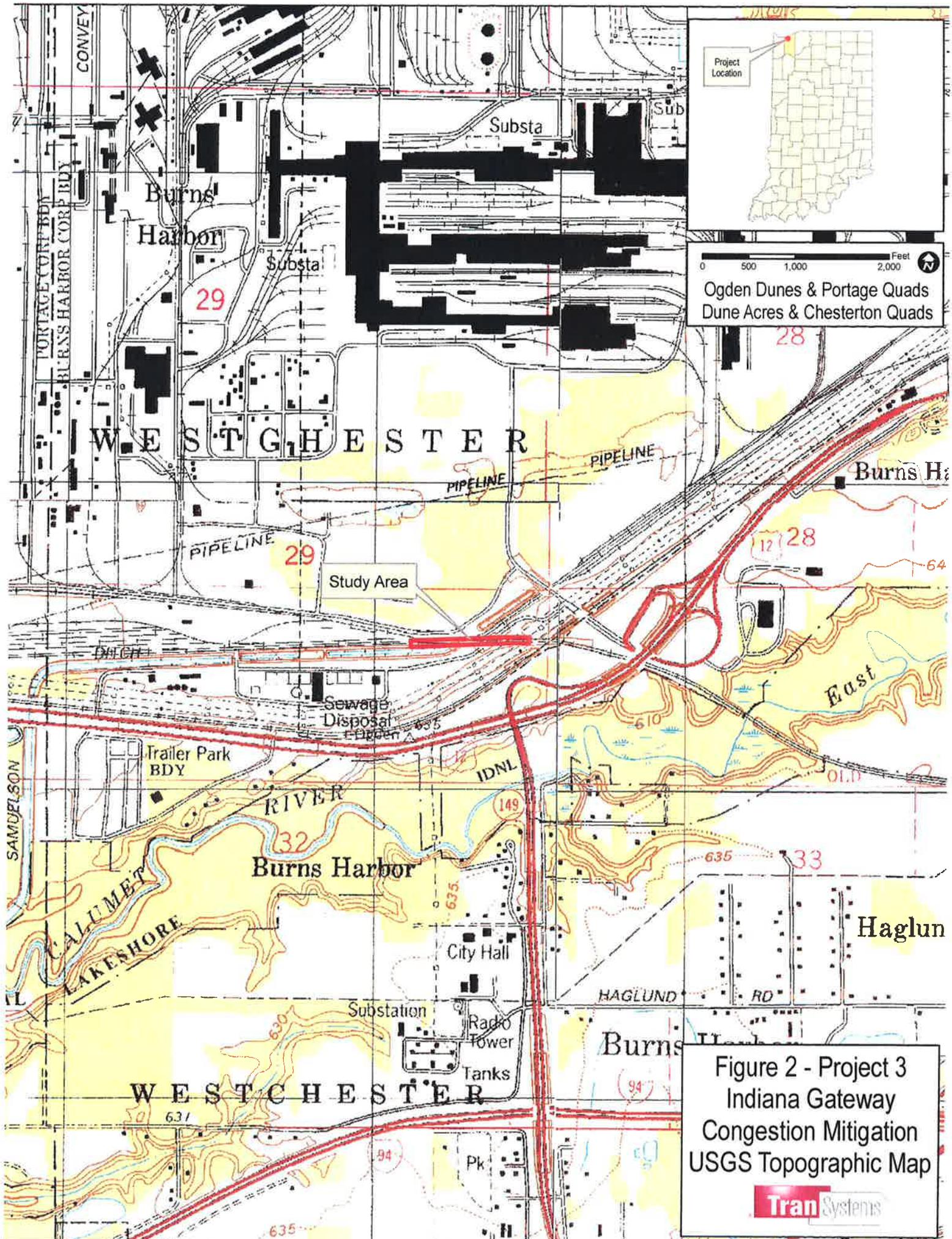


Indiana Gateway
Congestion Mitigation
Project Location Map

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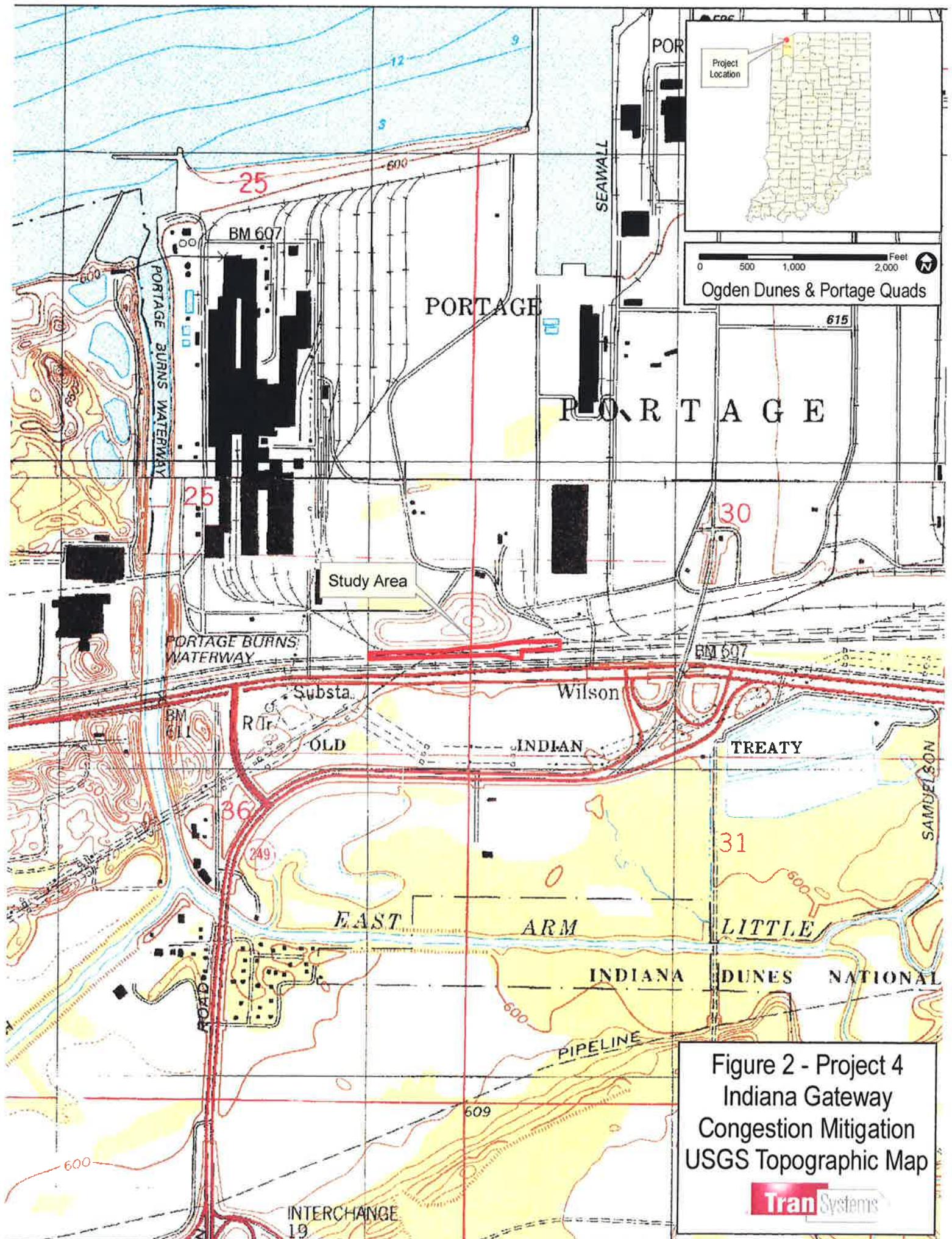


Figure 2 - Project 4
Indiana Gateway
Congestion Mitigation
USGS Topographic Map



Figure 2 - Project 5
Indiana Gateway
Congestion Mitigation
USGS Topographic Map

Tran Systems

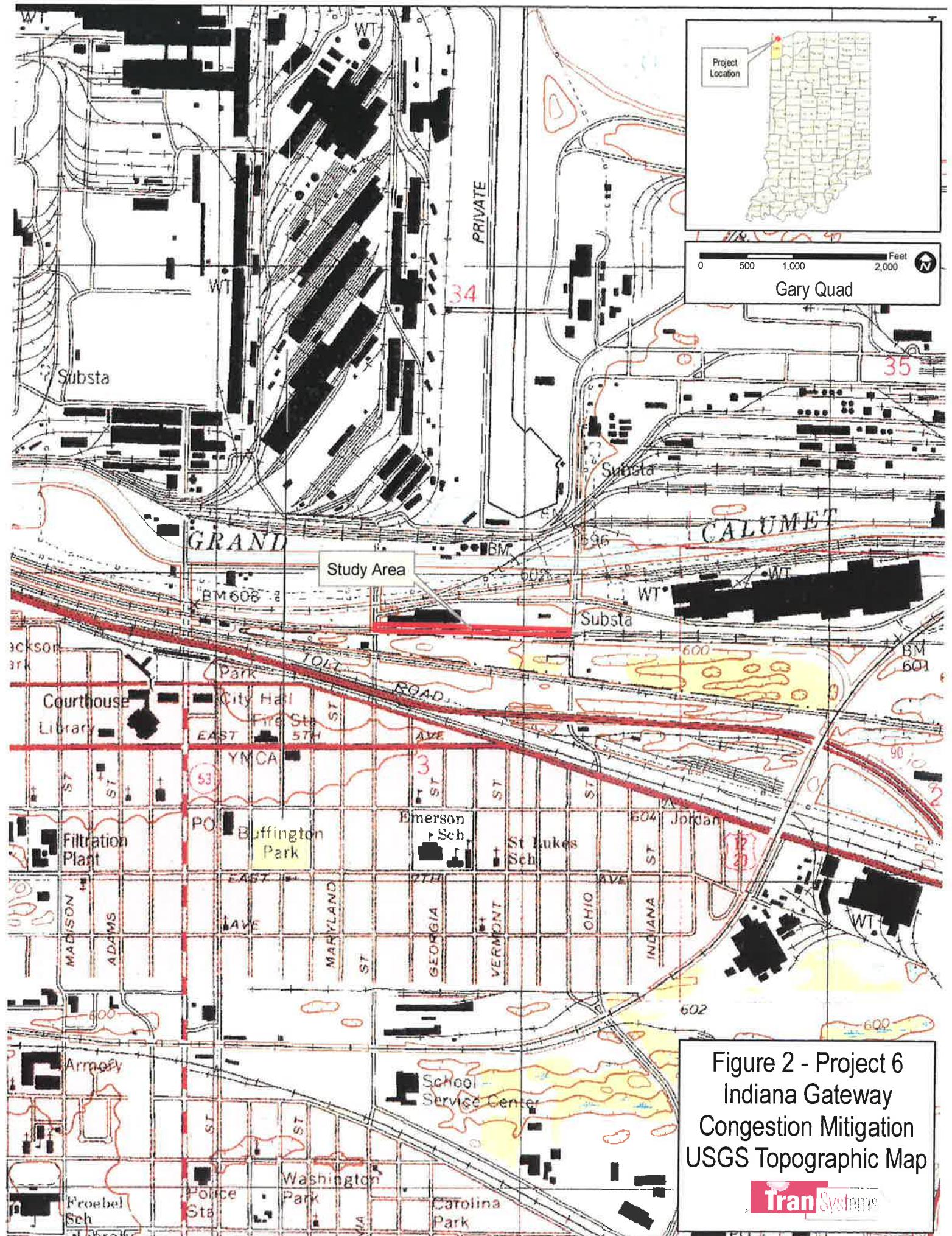
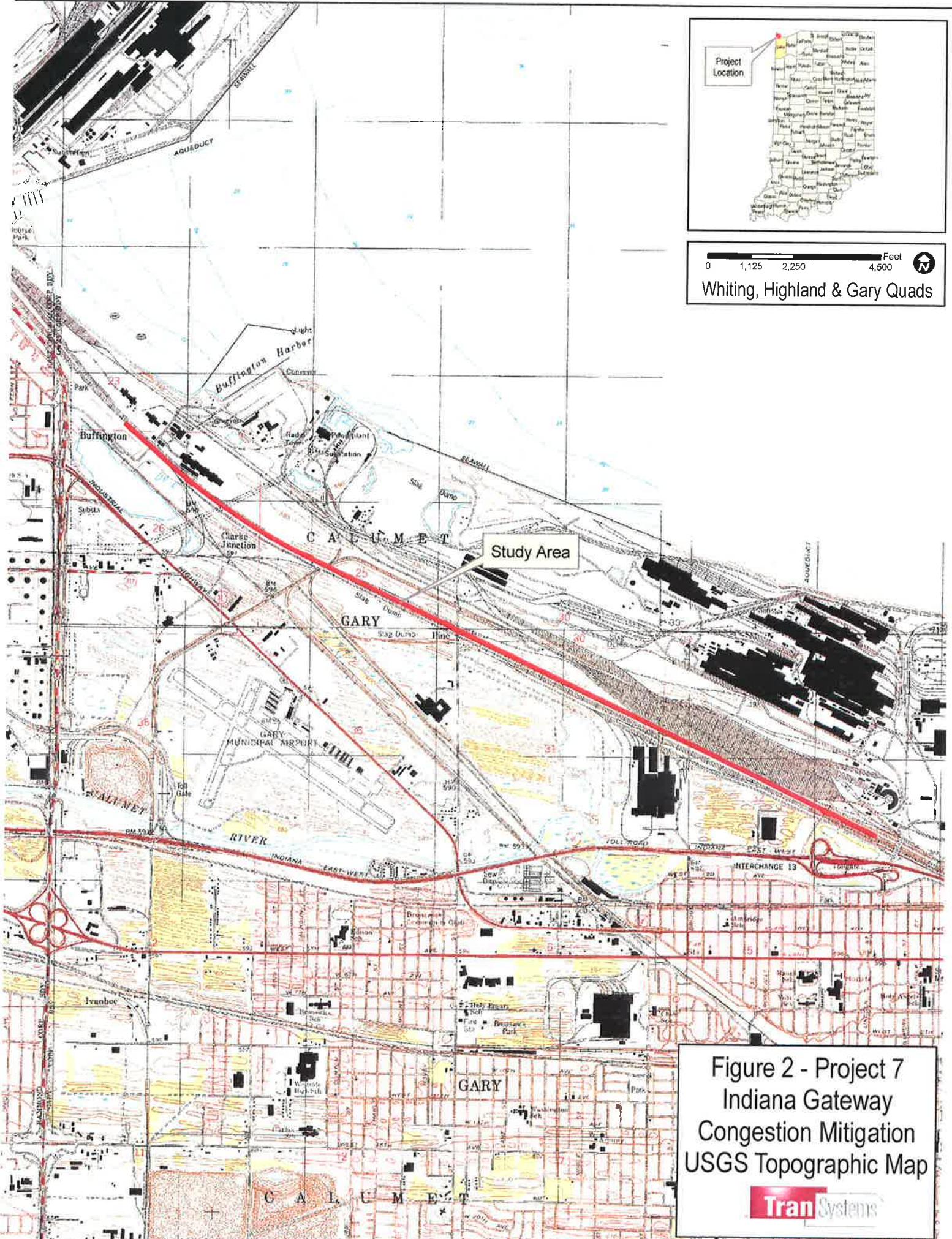


Figure 2 - Project 6

Indiana Gateway

Congestion Mitigation

USGS Topographic Map



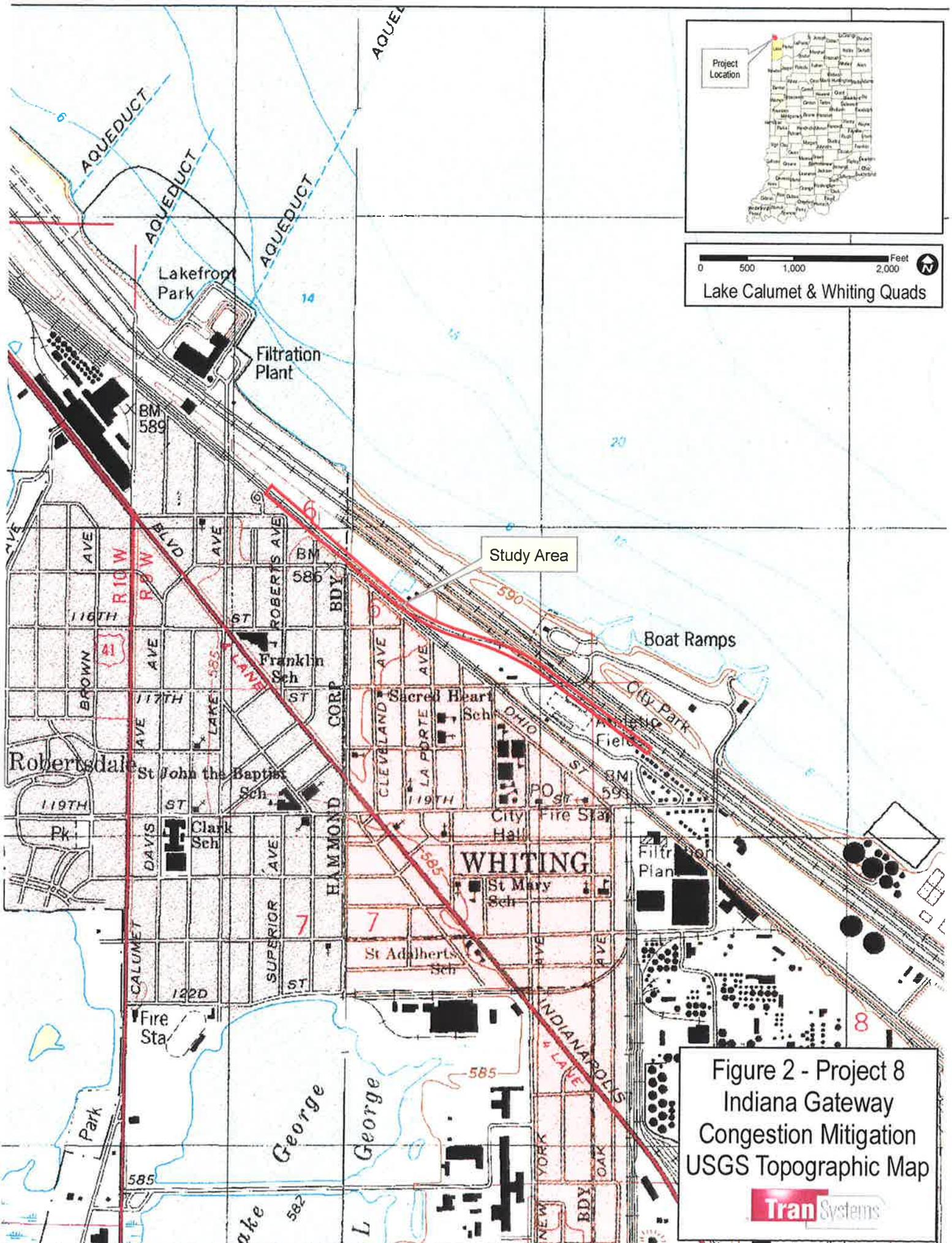


Figure 2 - Project 8
Indiana Gateway
Congestion Mitigation
USGS Topographic Map

ATTACHMENT A

PHOTOGRAPH LOG



Photo 1: Project 1 Facing West



Photo 2: Project 2 Facing East from Western Terminus



Photo 3: Project 2 Facing West Near Eastern Terminus



Photo 4: Project 3 Facing West



Photo 5: Project 4 Facing East



Photo 6: Project 5a-d Facing West



Photo 7: Project 5e Facing West



Photo 8: Project 6 Facing West



Photo 9: Project 7a Facing West



Photo 10: Project 7b Facing West



Photo 11: Project 7c Facing West



Photo 12: Project 7d Facing West



Photo 13: Project 7e-f Facing West



Photo 14: Project 7g Facing West



Photo 15: Project 8 Facing East



Photo 16: Project 8 Facing West



Photo 17: Project 8 Across the Street



Photo 18: Project 8 Facing East

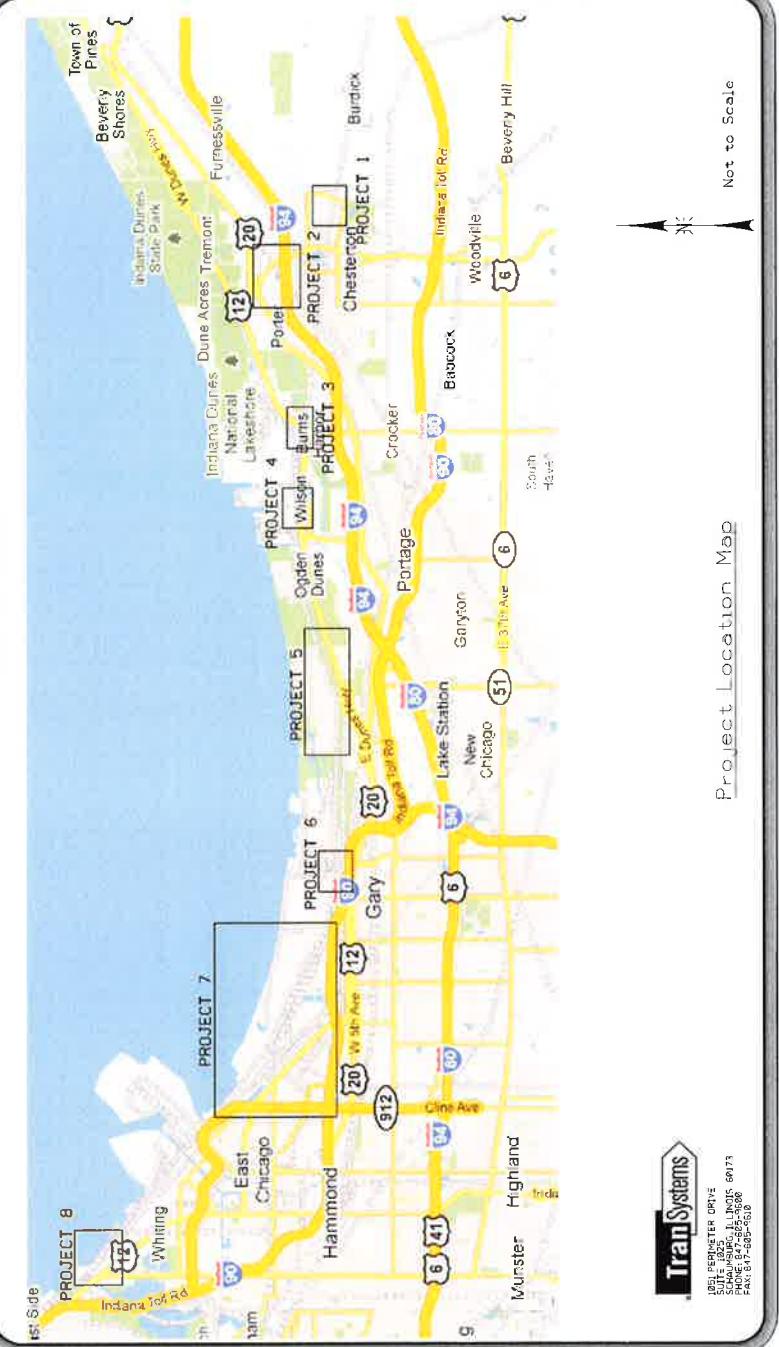
ATTACHMENT B
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DRAWINGS

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

NORFOLK SOUTHERN

LAKE AND PORTER COUNTIES, INDIANA
CHICAGO, IL TO ELKHART, IN
DEARBORN OPERATING DIVISION
INDIANA GATEWAY
PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS

AUGUST 18, 2009



Project Location Map

Train Systems

105 PERMITTER DRIVE
SUITE 202
ELKHART, IN 46513
PHONE: 574-274-1556
FAX: 574-635-2530



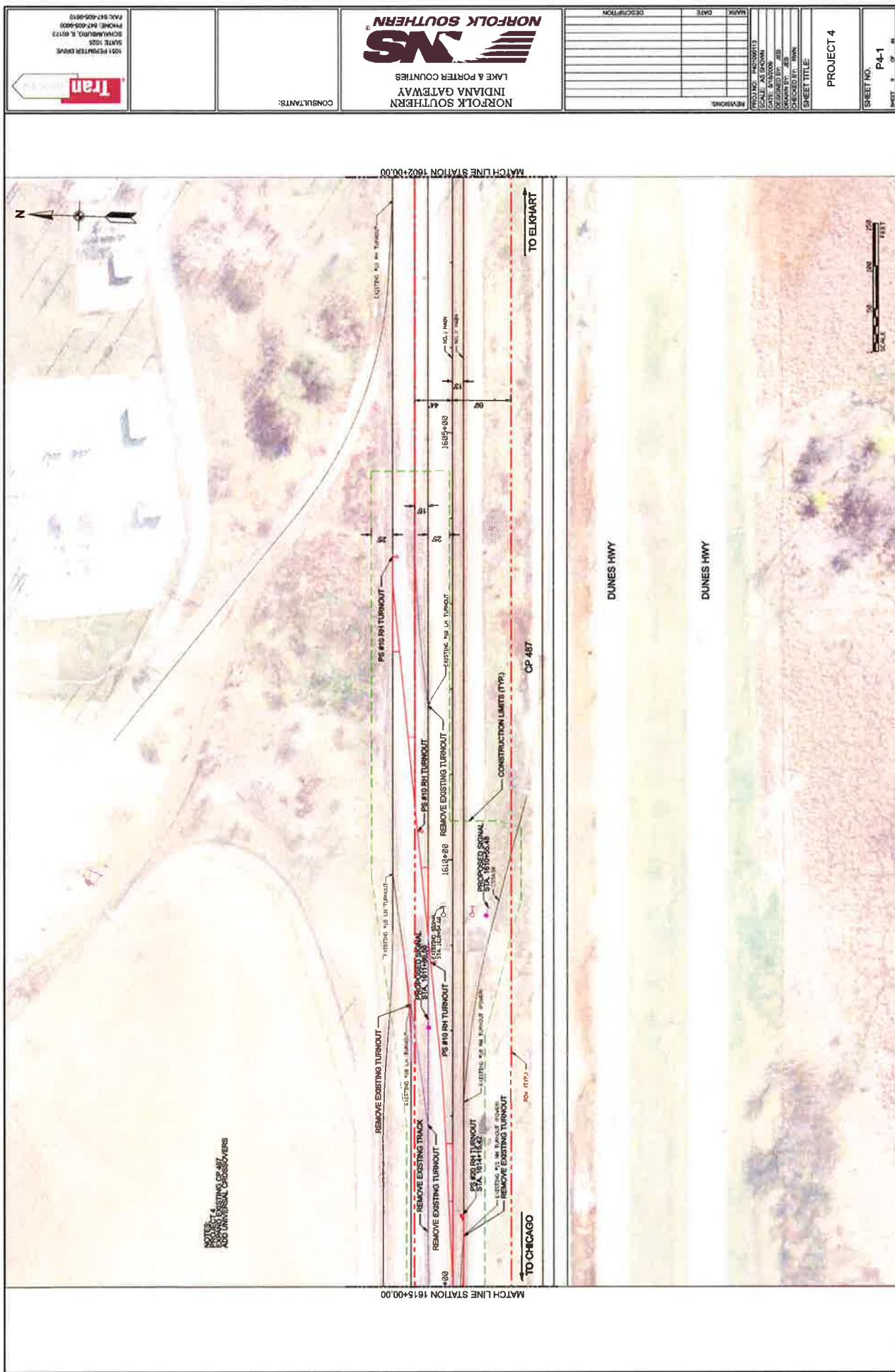


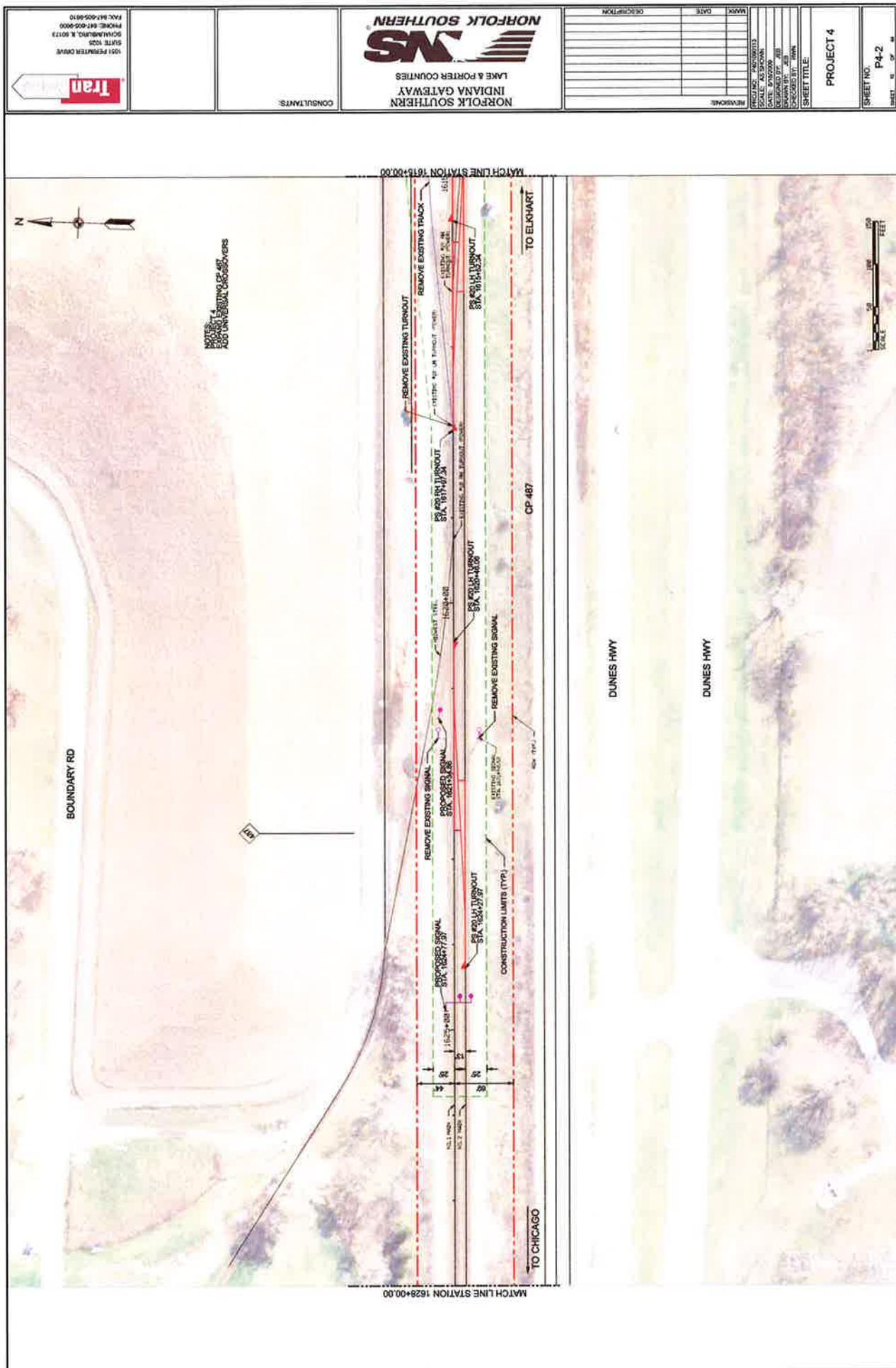














SECTION 3 - STA. 1791+58

SECTION 4 - STA. 1795+58

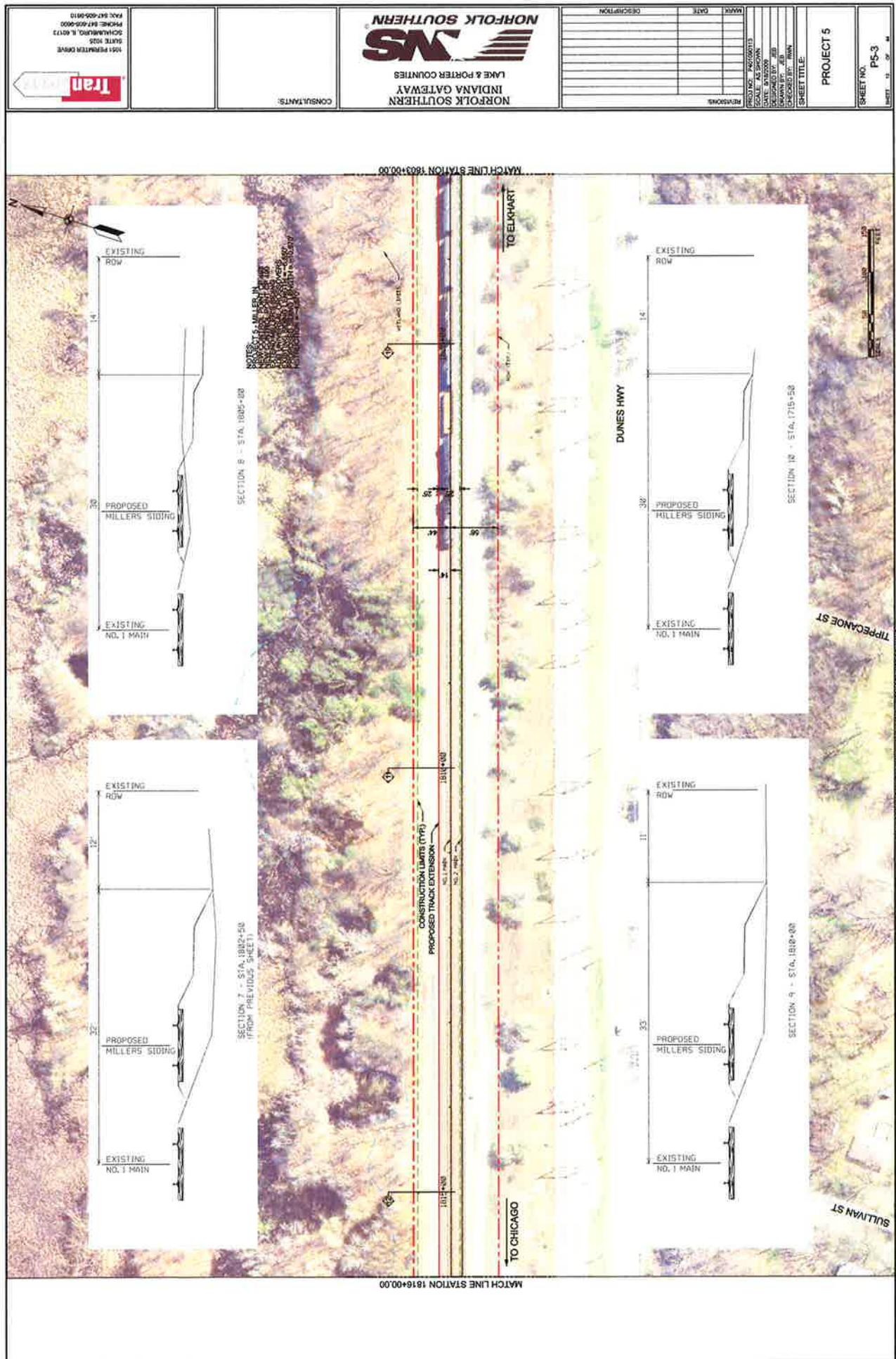
SECTION 5 - STA. 1797+32

SECTION 6 - STA. 1798+68

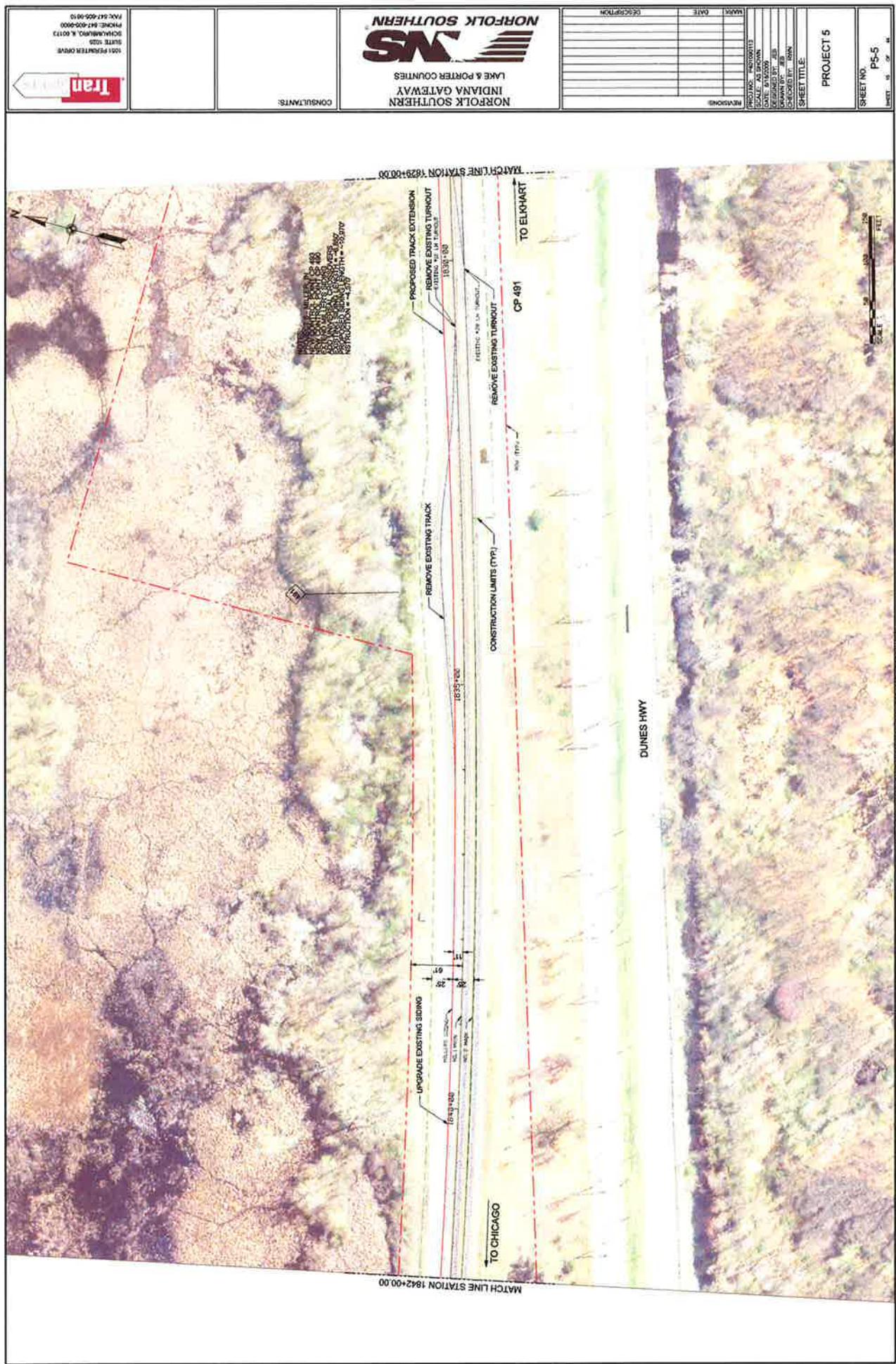
SECTION 7 - STA. 1799+00

SECTION 8 - STA. 1799+50

MATCHLINE STATION 1798+00.00

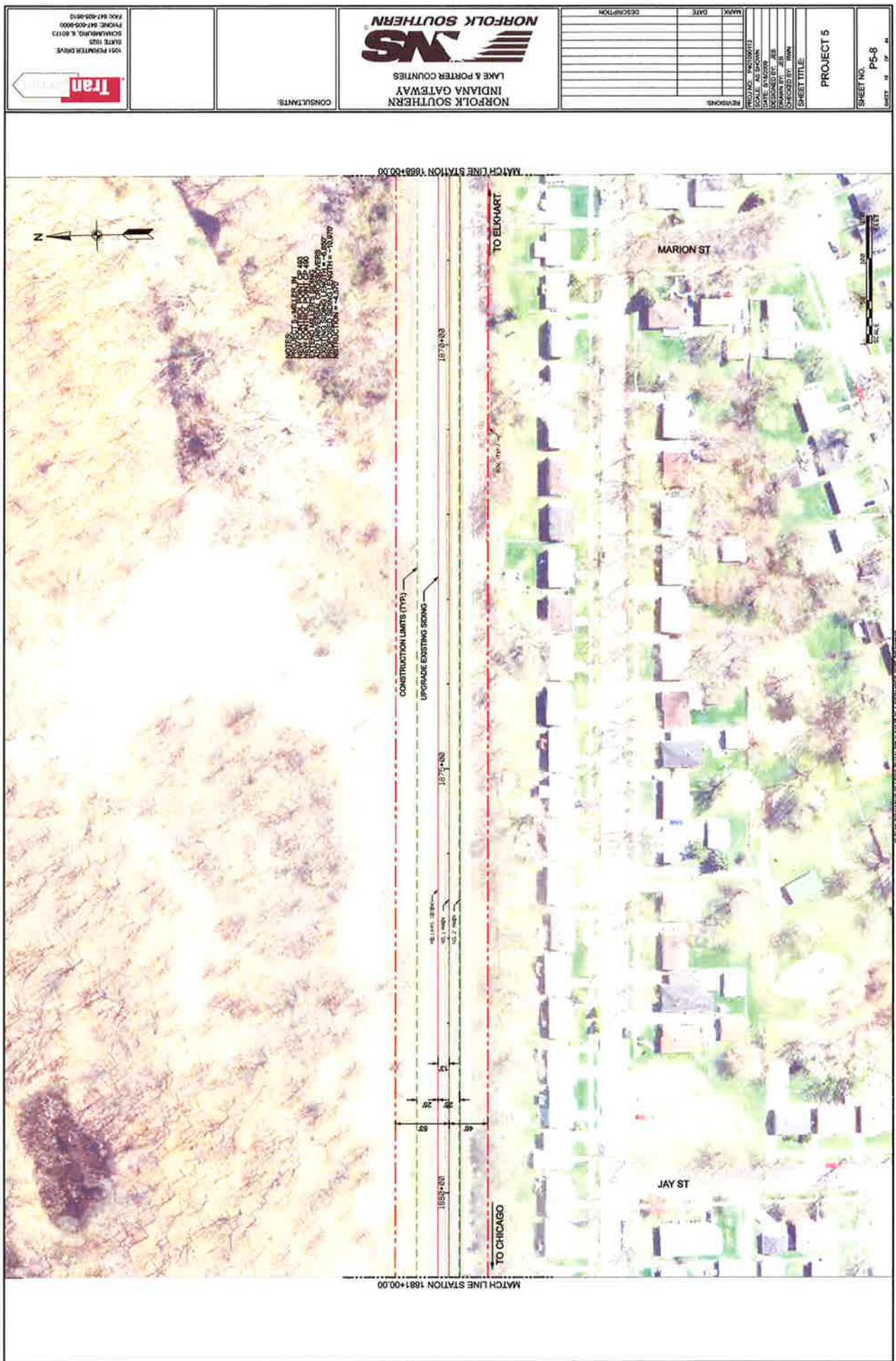










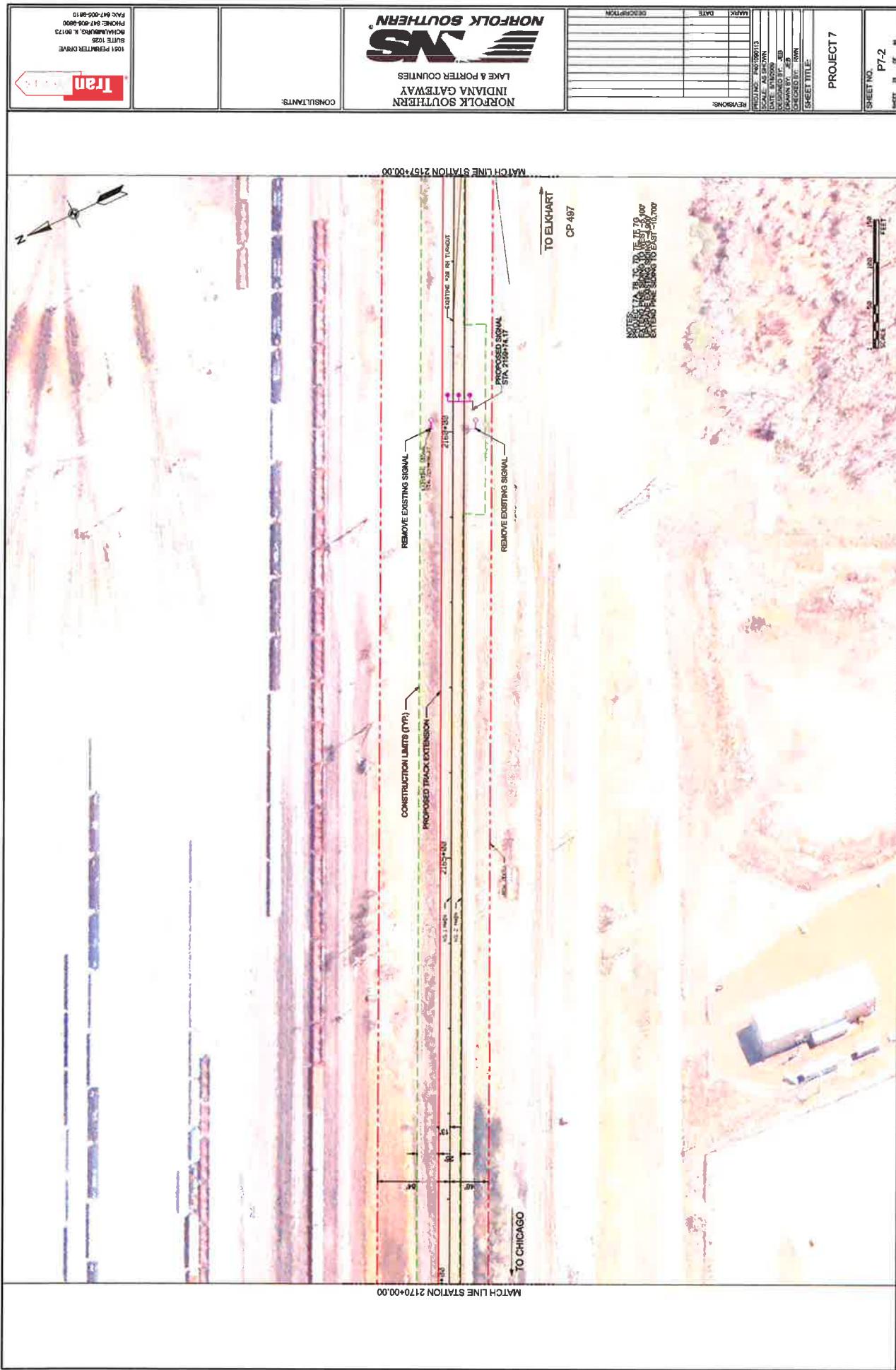












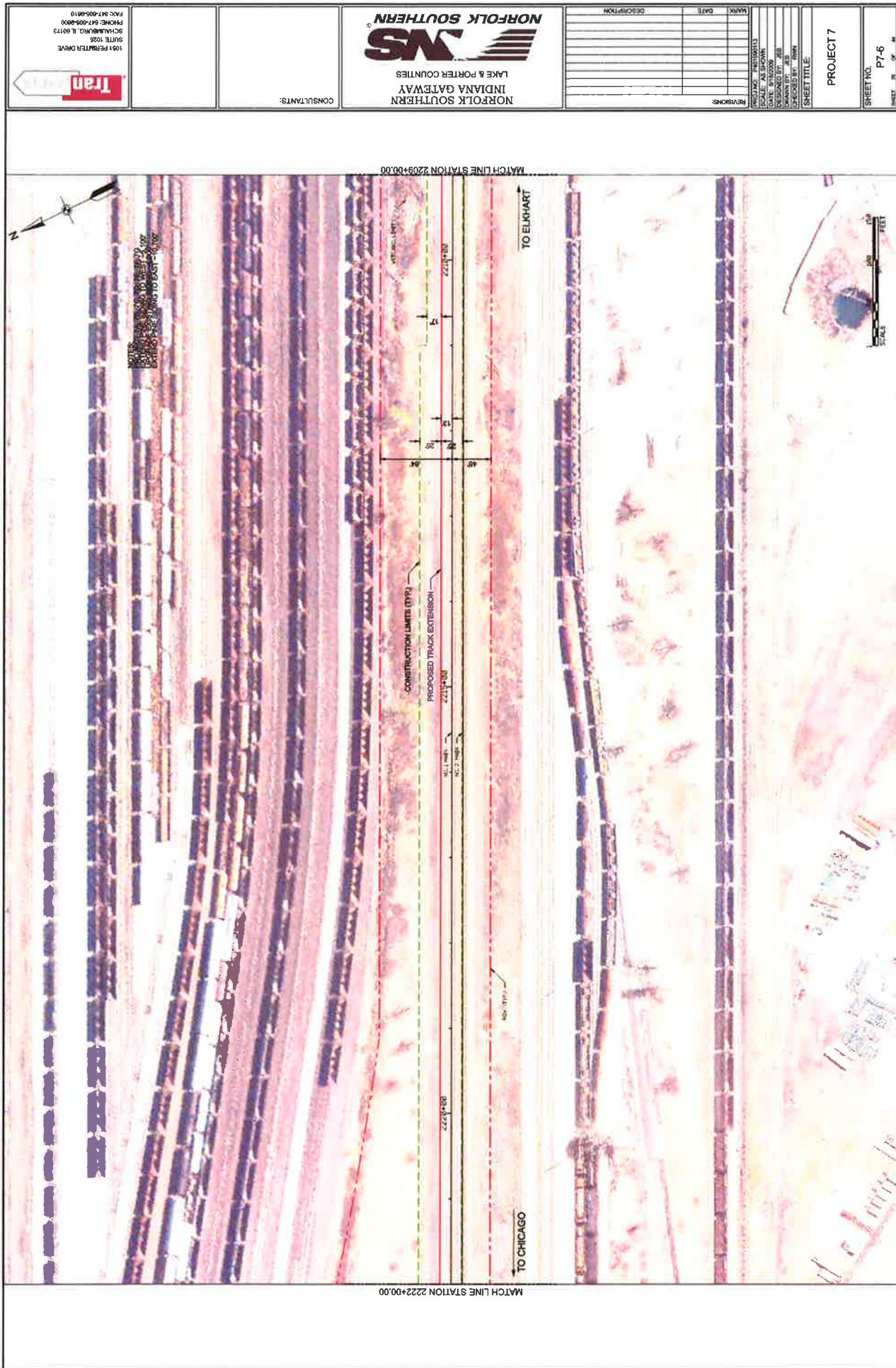


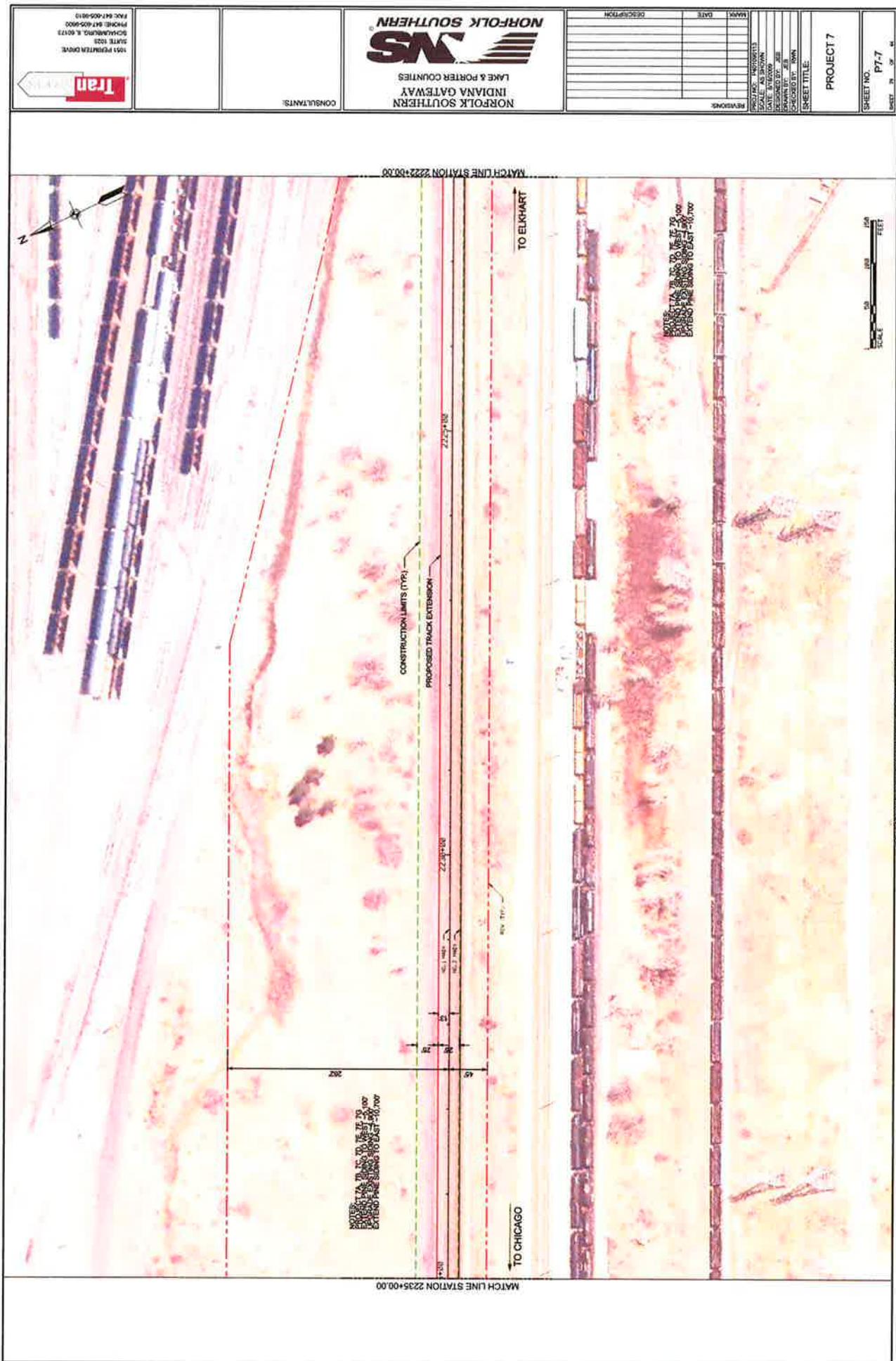
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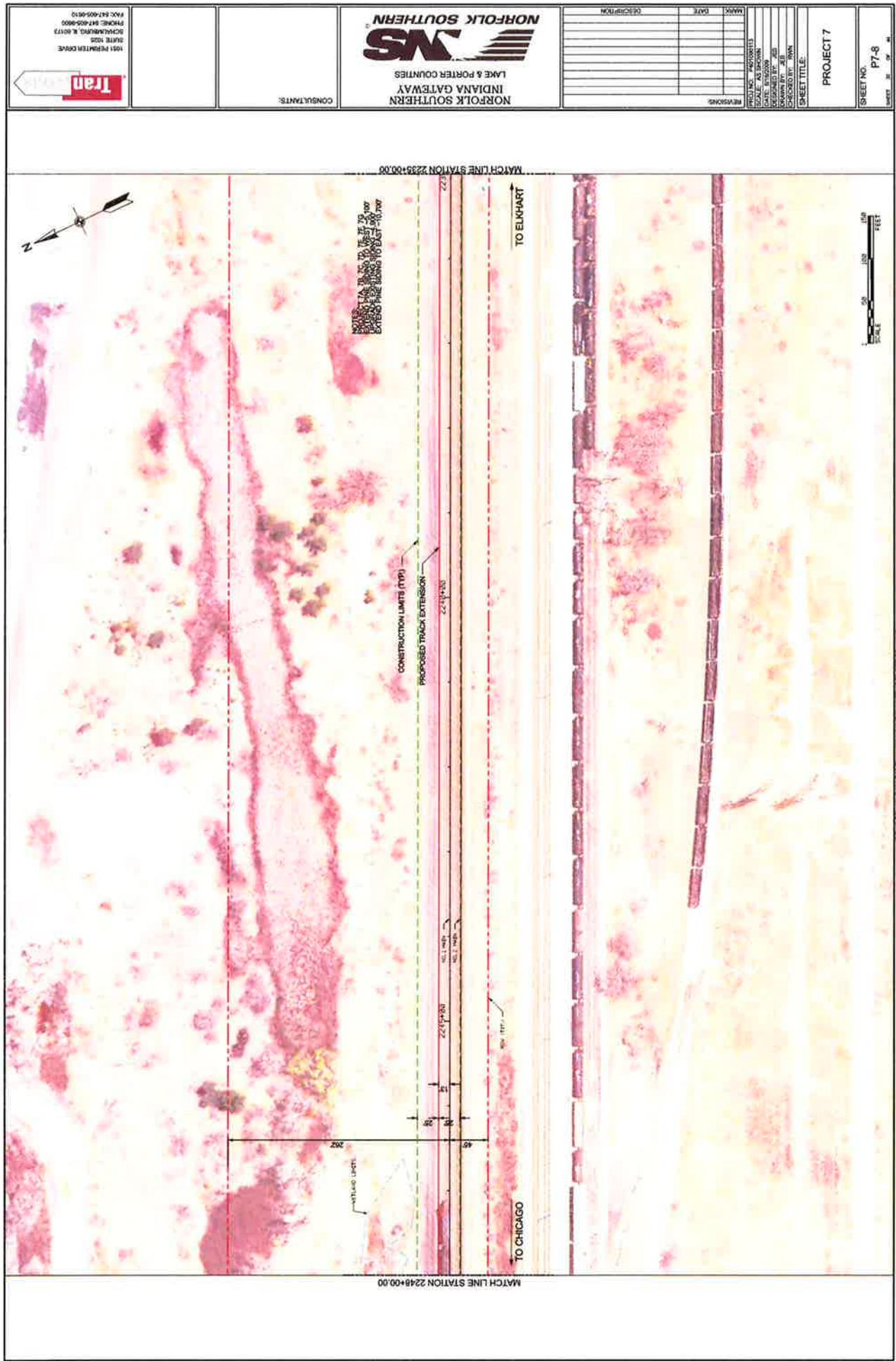
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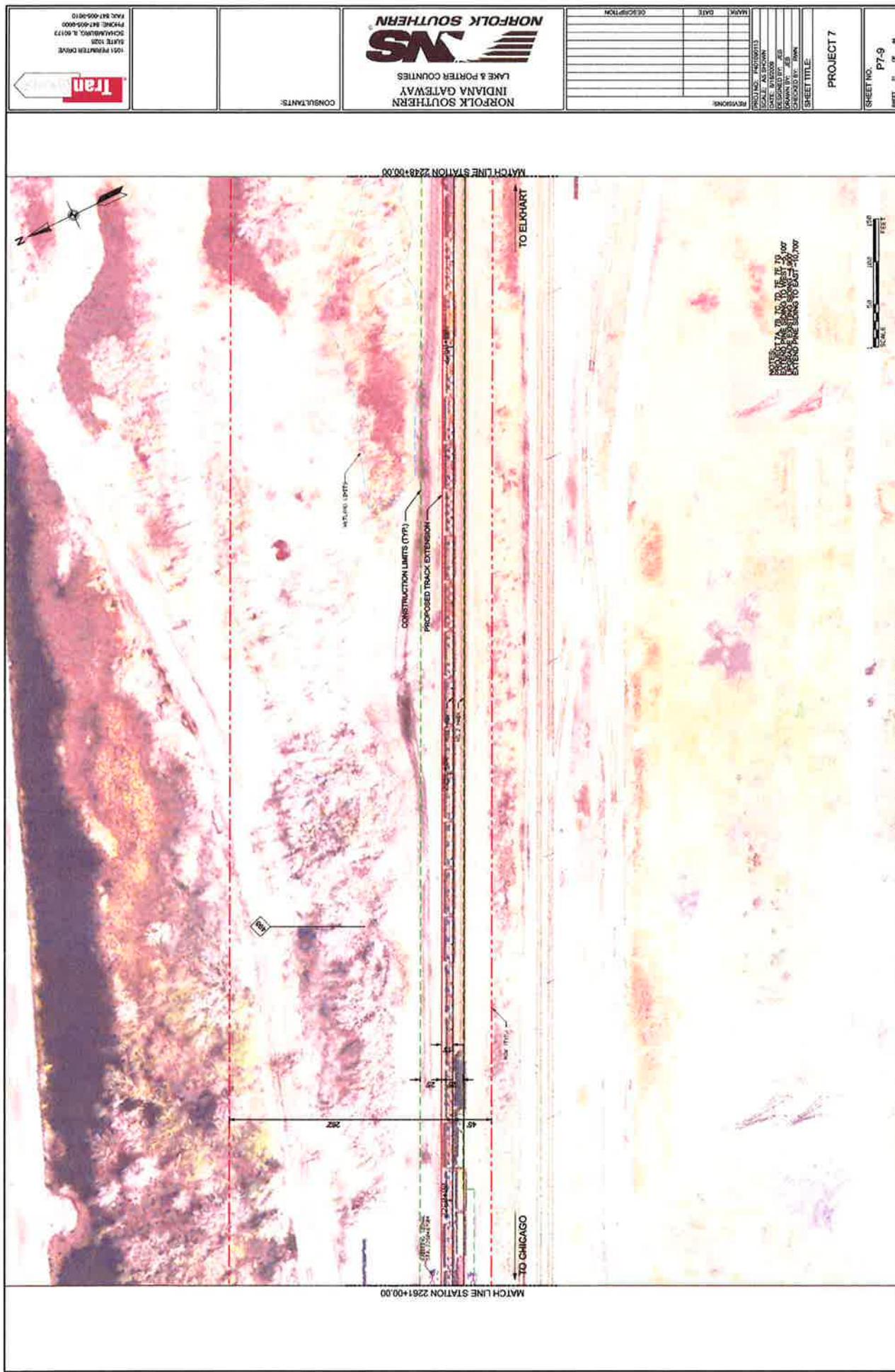




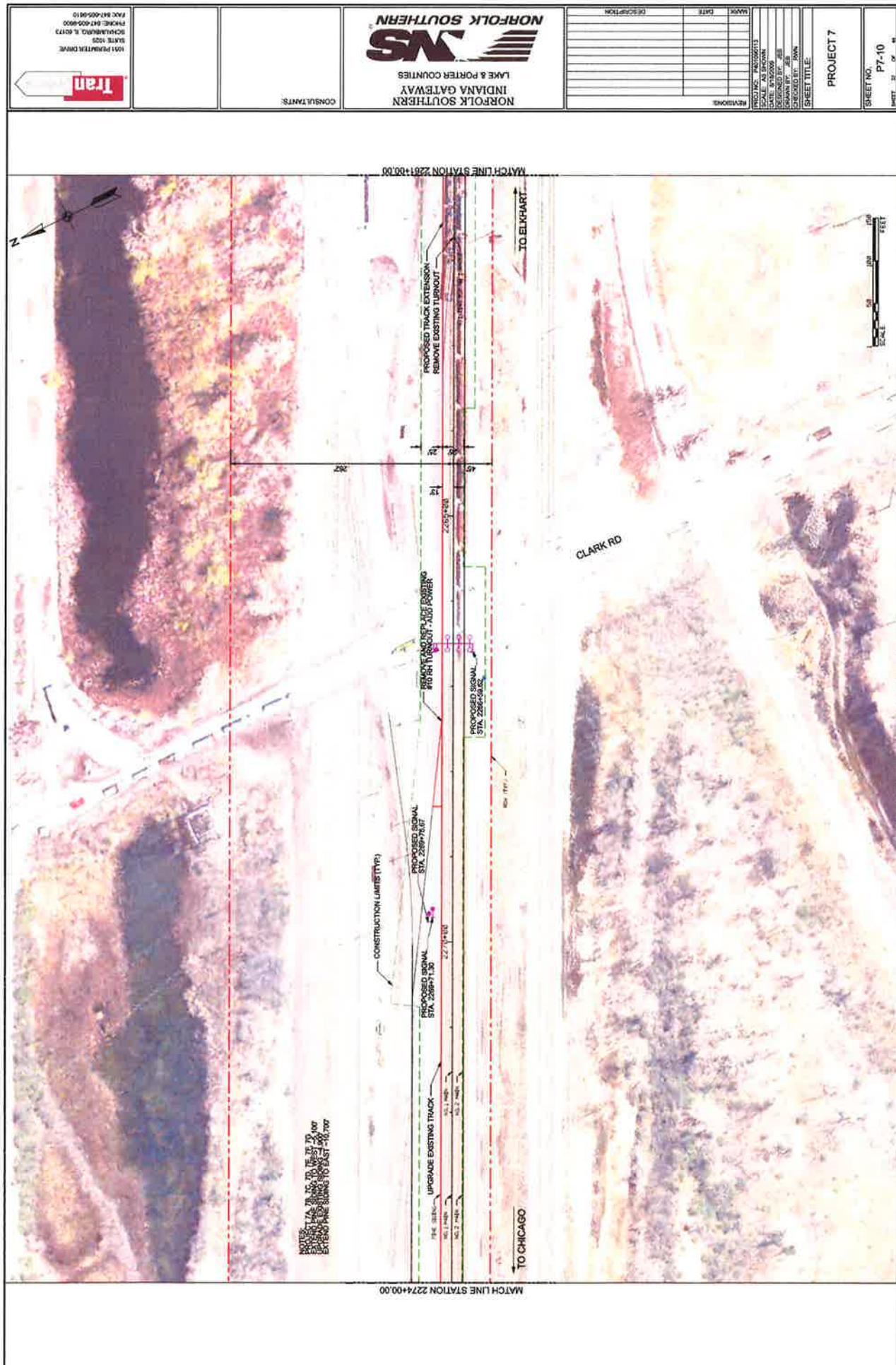
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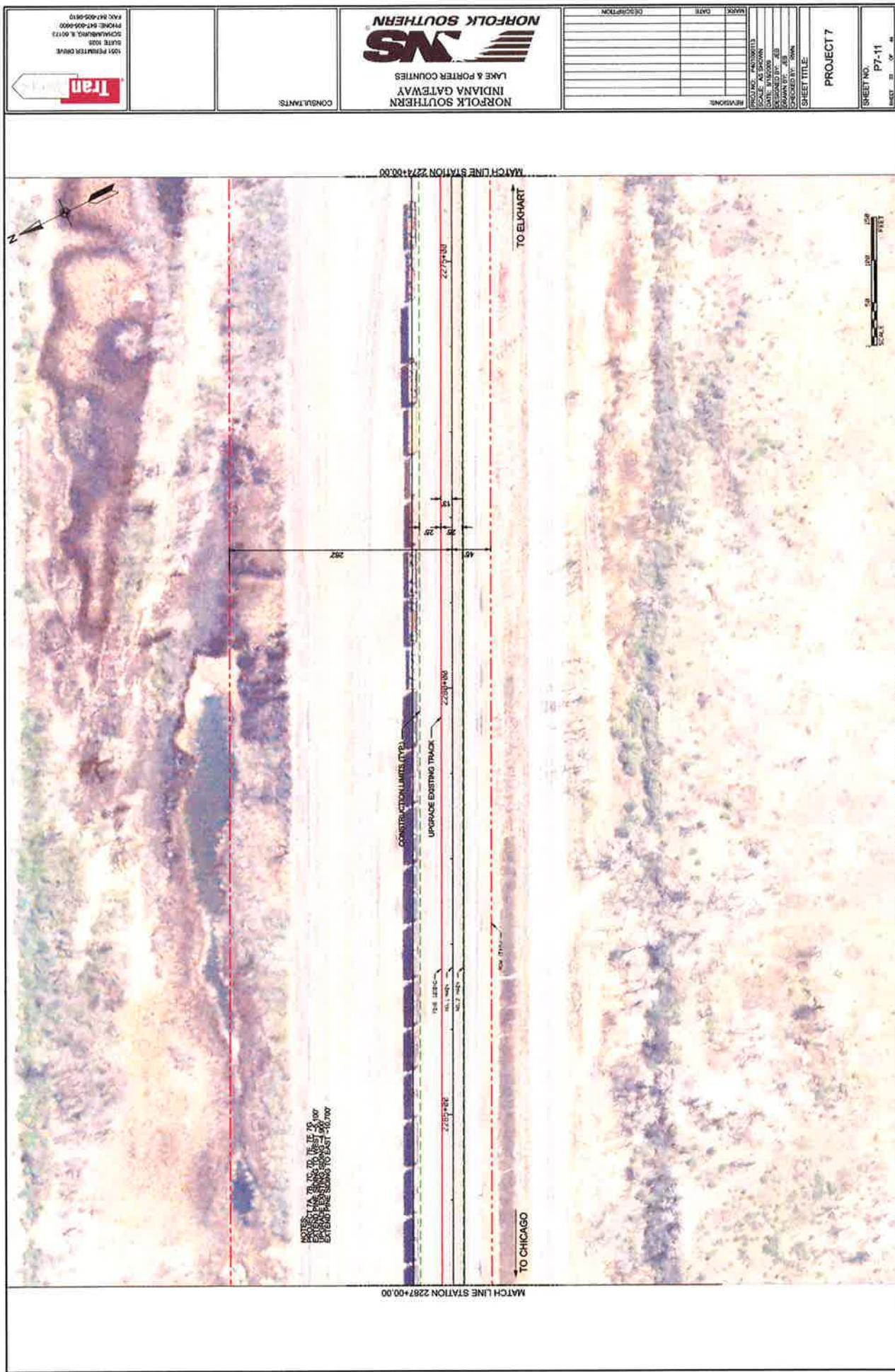


THE WINDS OF LIBERTY

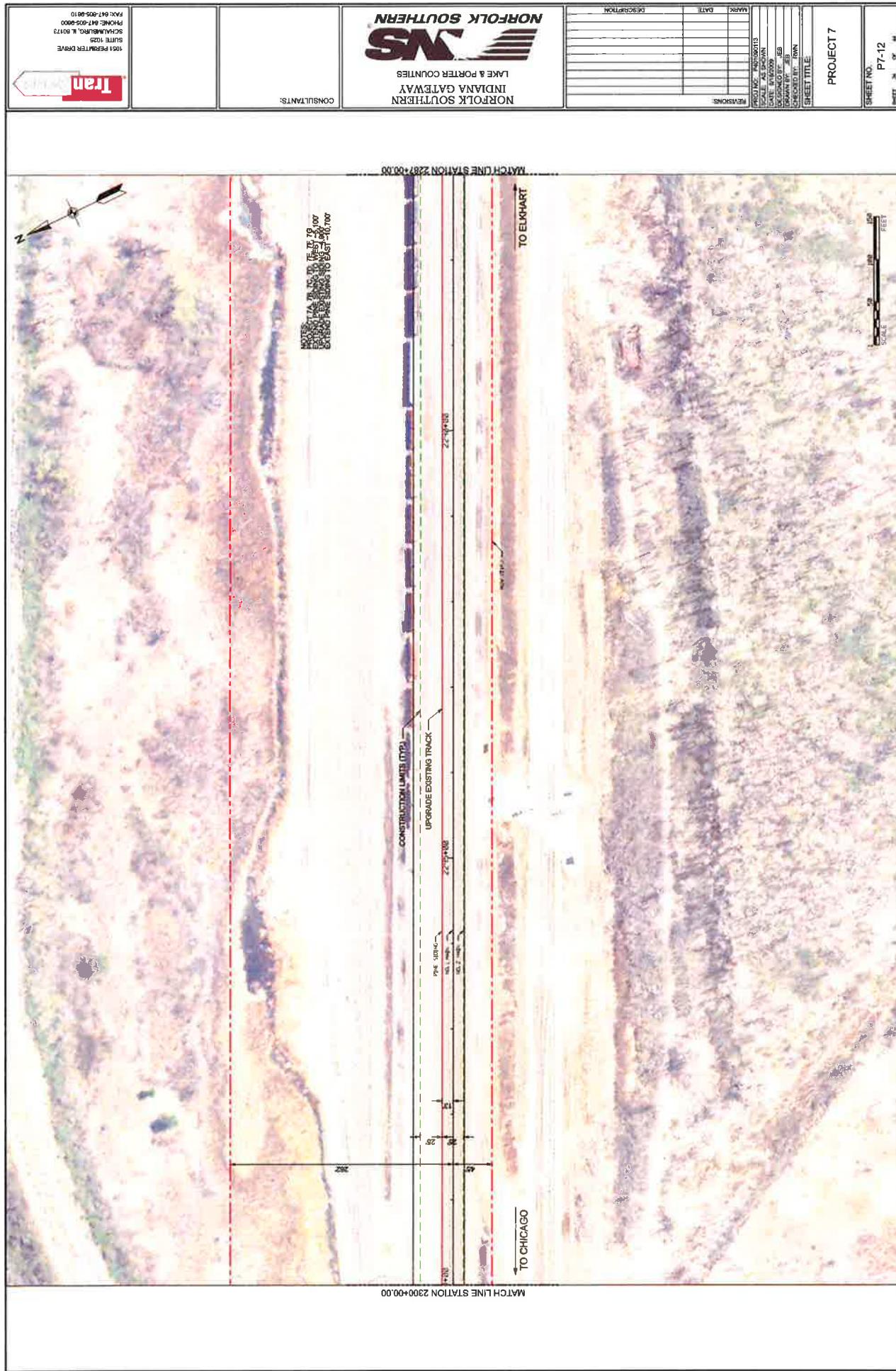


MATCH LINE STATION 2261+00.00

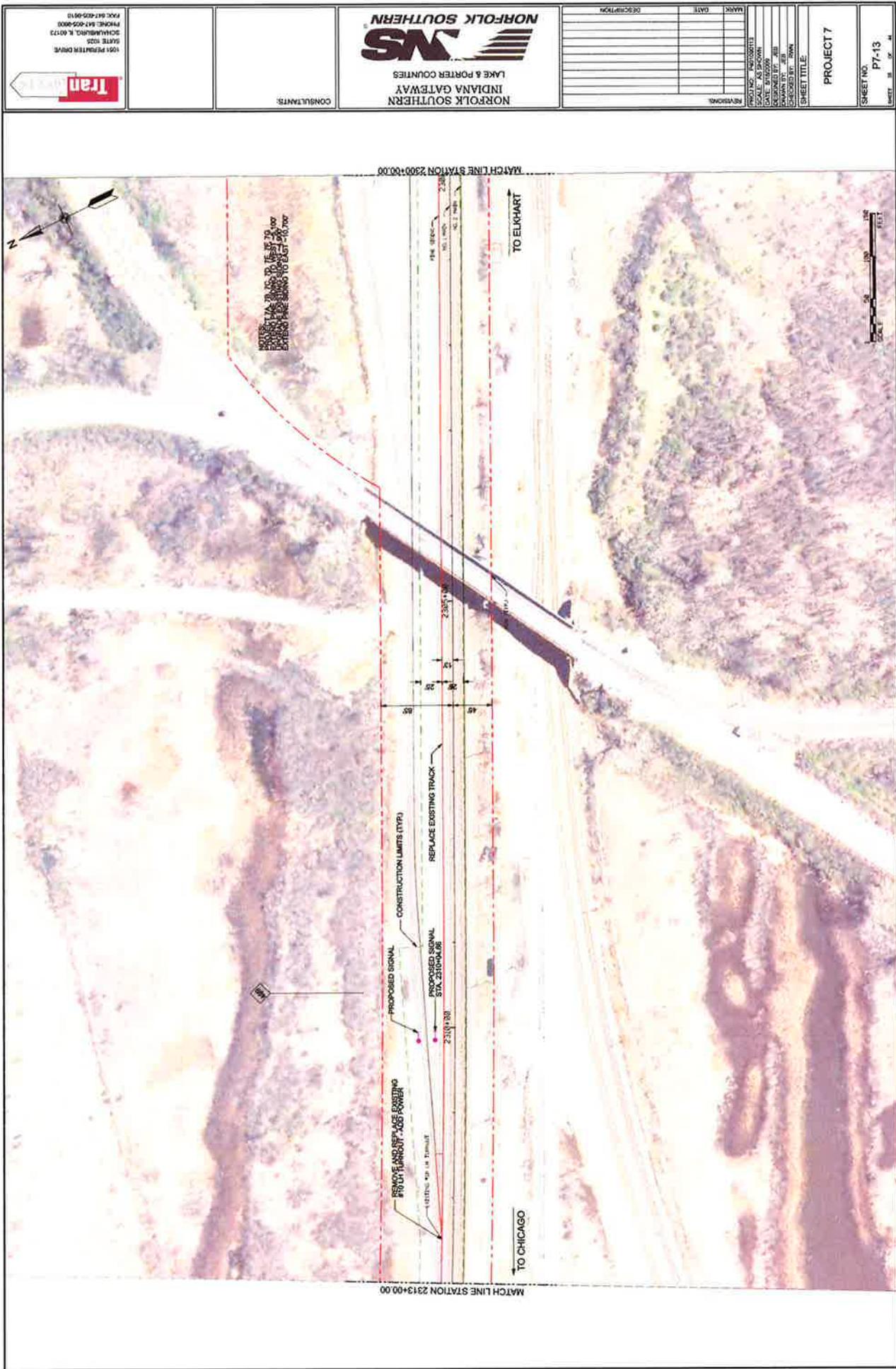


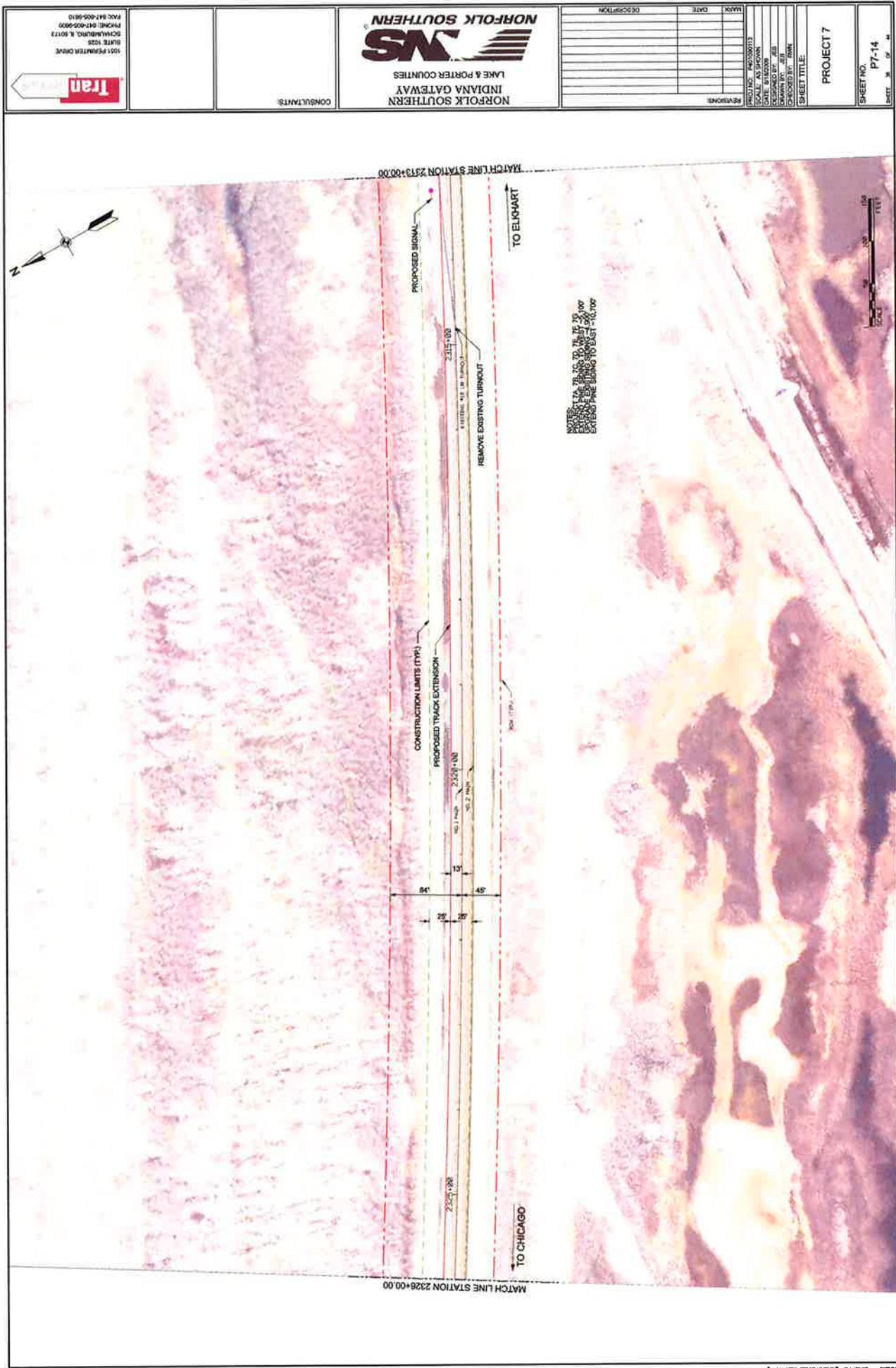


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NSC 67-605-9930
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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CONSULTANTS

NORFOLK SOUTHERN
NS

INDIANA GATEWAY
LAKE & PORTER COUNTIES

WEEK

DATE

DESCRIPTION

REVISIONS

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REVISION

PROJECT 7

P7-15
SHEET NO.
51 OF 44

MATCH LINE STATION 2326+00.00

MATCH LINE STATION 2339+00.00



THIS DRAWING IS THE PROPERTY OF NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD CO. DRAWING

